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DEPT FOR EUR/NCE AND PM/PPA FEATHERSTONE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER WELCOMES COESPU INVITATION

REF: SECSTATE 98854

¶1. (SBU) Post delivered reftel formal invitation (by note verbale) to the attention of MFA Deputy in the Directorate for UN and Specialized Institutions, Eugen Mahut. Mahut has been our primary interlocutor/coordinator on developing a GPOI component with the Ministry of Interior (Gendarmes). Mahut had been prepared by polmiloff in May for the prospective invitation. At that time, Mahut reported some resistance to the COESPU invitation at the Ministry of Interior by the Director for International Relations who claimed staffing and budgetary shortages. Post used the occasion of the Ambassador's 19 July call on Minister of Interior Christian David to raise directly the prospect of Romania nominating Gendarmes for COESPU. Minister David welcomed the invitation, said Romania would be pleased to participate, and looked forward to responding more formally upon receipt of the details from MFA.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: Due to the GOR's summer holidays, and the interagency coordination necessary to get the formal response from the Ministry of Interior, we anticipate that it will take some time to narrow the list of candidates. End Comment.
TAUBMAN